

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Previously presented) An image forming apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the third roller pair is provided at a substantially center portion of the second carrying path.
4. (Previously presented) An image forming apparatus according to claim 13, further comprising a detection sensor for detecting the object, the detection sensor being provided in the vicinity of each of the first and second roller pairs.
5. (Previously presented) An image forming apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the second carrying path connects the downstream side and the upstream side in the object carrying direction of the first carrying path, and forms a loop in incorporating with the first carrying path.
6. (Previously presented) An image forming apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising:  
a sheet feed device for feeding the object to the first carrying path, the sheet feed device being provided outside the loop formed of the first and second carrying paths.
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Previously presented) An image forming apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the second carrying path has first and second sensors for detecting an object onto which an image is to be transferred.

11. (Previously presented) An image forming apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the first sensor is provided in the vicinity of a beginning portion of the second carrying path, and the second sensor is provided in the vicinity of an end portion of the second carrying path.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:

an apparatus body;

an image carrier provided in the apparatus body, which carries for carrying an image;  
a first carrying path substantially vertically provided in the apparatus body, on which  
an object is carried to the image carrier;

a transfer device provided opposite to the image carrier with a the first carrying path interposing therebetween, for transferring which transfers the image to an the object which is carried through the first carrying path;

a resist roller provided on the first carrying path, being located in an upstream side of the transfer device;

a discharge section which receives for receiving an object, onto both surfaces of which an image is transferred by the transfer device, carried from the first carrying path;

a carrying device for carrying an object, onto one surface of which an image is transferred by the transfer device, toward the discharge section by a predetermined distance, and then carrying the object in a direction away from the discharge section; and

a second carrying path on which the object carried in the direction away from the discharge section by the carrying device is guided from a downstream side of the transfer device of the first carrying path and is guided in an inverted state to an upstream side of the resist roller, the second carrying path having a parallel portion which is substantially parallel to the first carrying path and curved portions each provided upstream and downstream from the parallel portion, and wherein the second carrying path having includes a first roller pair located at the curved portion upstream from the parallel portion upstream of the object carrying direction, a second roller pair located at the curved portion downstream from the parallel portion downstream of the object carrying direction, and a third roller pair located at the parallel portion between the first and second roller pairs.

14. (Currently amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:  
an apparatus body;  
a sheet feed roller provided in the apparatus body, which feeds ~~for feeding~~ an object onto which an image is to be transferred;  
a substantially vertical first carrying path on which the object fed by the sheet feeding roller is carried;  
a resist roller which aligns the object carried by the first carrying path;  
an image carrier which carries ~~for carrying~~ an image;  
a transfer section which transfers ~~for transferring~~ the image onto the aligned object;  
a fixing section which fixes ~~for fixing~~ the transferred image on the aligned object;  
~~a discharge roller pair for discharging the object on which the image is fixed;~~  
a receiving section which receives ~~provided in the vicinity of the discharge roller pair, for receiving the object on both surfaces of which the image is transferred,~~ discharged from the first carrying path ~~the discharge roller pair;~~ and  
a discharge roller pair which sends an object, on one surface of which an image is fixed by the fixing section, toward the receiving section by a predetermined distance, and then, sends the object in the direction away from the receiving section to guide the object to a predetermined direction from a position downstream with respect to the fixing section; and  
a second carrying path on which the object sent by the discharge roller pair is guided upstream from the resist roller in a state where the object is inverted, the second carrying path having a parallel portion which is substantially parallel to the first carrying path and curved portions each provided upstream and downstream from the parallel portion, and having a first roller pair located at the curved portion upstream from the parallel portion, a second roller pair located at the curved portion downstream from the parallel portion, and a third roller pair located at the parallel portion, which merges with the first carrying path at a position upstream in the object carrying direction with respect to the image carrier and downstream in the object carrying direction with respect to the sheet feed roller and at a position downstream in the object carrying direction with respect to the fixing section;

~~wherein the discharge roller pair is rotatable in normal and reverse directions, and after it sends an object, on one surface of which an image is fixed, toward the receiving section by a predetermined distance, it sends the object in the direction away from the receiving section to guide the object to the second carrying path from the position downstream with respect to the fixing section; and~~

~~wherein the second carrying path guides the object sent by the discharge roller pair to the first carrying path at the position upstream in the object carrying direction with respect to the image carrier and downstream in the object carrying direction with respect to the resist roller in a state where the object is inverted, and has a first roller pair upstream in the object carrying direction, a second roller pair downstream in the object carrying direction, and a third roller pair between the first and second roller pairs.~~

15. (Currently amended) An image forming method comprising:

carrying an object onto which an image is to be transferred through a first carrying path substantially vertically provided in an apparatus body, and feeding the object to an image carrier which carries an image ~~to a portion between an image carrier for carrying an image and a transfer device which is provided opposite to the image carrier with the first carrying path interposing therebetween,~~ after the object is aligned by a resist roller;

transferring an image carried by the image carrier onto the object carried to the image carrier ~~onto one surface of the object~~ by the transfer device;

receiving the object by a discharge section, on both surfaces of which the image has been transferred by the transfer device, discharged from the first carrying path;

carrying the object by a carrying device, onto one surface of which the image has been transferred by the transfer device, toward a the discharge section ~~provided on a discharge port of the first carrying path~~ by a predetermined distance, and then carrying it in a direction away from the discharge section; and

guiding the object to a second carrying path from a downstream side in the object carrying direction ~~carried in the direction away from the discharge section by the carrying device on a second carrying path from a downstream side of the transfer device~~ of the first carrying path, and guiding it in an inverted state to an upstream side of the resist roller, the

second carrying path having a parallel portion which is substantially parallel to the first carrying path and curved portions each provided upstream and downstream from the parallel portion, and having a first roller pair located at the curved portion upstream from the parallel portion, a second roller pair located at the curved portion downstream from the parallel portion, and a third roller pair located at the parallel portion.

~~carrying the object in an inverted state, to an upstream side of the resist roller, through a first roller pair provided upstream in the object carrying direction of the second carrying path, a second roller pair provided downstream in the object carrying direction of the second carrying path and a third roller pair provided between the first and second roller pairs; and~~

~~discharging the object which has been carried upstream of the first carrying path in an inverted state, to the transfer device on the first carrying path, transferring an image onto the other surface of the object, and discharging the object to the discharge section.~~